

In the United States Court of Federal Claims

OFFICE OF SPECIAL MASTERS

No. 13-287V

(E-Filed: January 16, 2014)

* * * * *

CHRISTINA N. STEINAT,	*	UNPUBLISHED
	*	
Petitioner,	*	Special Master
	*	Nora Beth Dorsey
v.	*	
	*	Influenza Vaccination;
SECRETARY OF HEALTH AND	*	Brachial Neuritis; Decision;
HUMAN SERVICES,	*	Stipulation.
	*	
Respondent.	*	

* * * * *

Douglas Lee Burdette, Seattle, WA, for Petitioner.
Alexis Babcock, Washington, DC, for Respondent.

DECISION AWARDING DAMAGES¹

On April 24, 2013, Petitioner, Christina Steinat, filed a petition seeking compensation under the National Vaccine Injury Compensation Program (“the Vaccine Program”). Petitioner alleged that she suffered brachial neuritis, as a result of receiving an influenza vaccination.²

¹ Because this decision contains a reasoned explanation for the undersigned’s action in this case, the undersigned intends to post this decision on the United States Court of Federal Claims’ website, in accordance with the E-Government Act of 2002, Pub. L. No. 107-347, § 205, 116 Stat. 2899, 2913 (codified as amended at 44 U.S.C. § 3501 note (2006)). As provided by Vaccine Rule 18(b), each party has 14 days within which to request redaction “of any information furnished by that party: (1) that is a trade secret or commercial or financial in substance and is privileged or confidential; or (2) that includes medical files or similar files, the disclosure of which would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of privacy.” Vaccine Rule 18(b). Otherwise, “the entire” decision will be available to the public. *Id.*

² The National Vaccine Injury Compensation Program is set forth in Part 2 of the National Childhood Vaccine Injury Act of 1986, Pub. L. No. 99-660, 100 Stat. 3755, codified as amended, 42 U.S.C.A. § 300aa-10-§ 300aa-34 (West 1991 & Supp. 2002)

Respondent denies that Petitioner's influenza vaccination caused Petitioner's brachial neuritis, and/or any other injury. Nonetheless, both parties, while maintaining their above stated positions, agreed in a Stipulation, filed January 15, 2014, ("Stipulation") that the issues before them can be settled and that a decision should be entered awarding Petitioner compensation.

The undersigned finds said stipulation reasonable and adopts it as the decision of the Court in awarding damages, on the terms set forth therein.

The stipulation awards:

A lump sum of \$100,000.00 in the form of a check payable to Petitioner. This amount represents compensation for all damages that would be available under 42 U.S.C. §300aa-15(a) to which Petitioner would be entitled; and

Stipulation ¶ 8 (a).

A lump sum of \$16,761.49 in the form of a check payable jointly to Petitioner and Petitioner's attorney, for attorneys' fees and costs available under 42 U.S.C. § 300aa-15(e), and in compliance with General Order # 9, no out-of-pocket expenses were incurred by Petitioner in proceeding on the petition.

Stipulation ¶ 8 (b).

The undersigned approves the requested amounts for Petitioner's compensation. In the absence of a motion for review filed pursuant to RCFC Appendix B, the clerk of the court is directed to enter judgment herewith.³

IT IS SO ORDERED.

s/Nora Beth Dorsey
Nora Beth Dorsey
Special Master

(Vaccine Act or the Act). All citations in this decision to individual sections of the Vaccine Act are to 42 U.S.C.A. § 300aa.

³ Pursuant to Vaccine Rule 11(a), entry of judgment is expedited by the parties' joint filing of notice renouncing the right to seek review.

IN THE UNITED STATES COURT OF FEDERAL CLAIMS
OFFICE OF SPECIAL MASTERS

CHRISTINA N. STEINAT,

Petitioner,

v.

SECRETARY OF HEALTH AND
HUMAN SERVICES,

Respondent.

No. 13-287V
Special Master Dorsey
ECF

STIPULATION

The parties hereby stipulate to the following matters:

1. April 24, 2013, Christina Steinat ("petitioner") filed a petition for vaccine compensation under the National Vaccine Injury Compensation Program, 42 U.S.C. §300aa-10 to 34 (the "Vaccine Program"). The petition seeks compensation for injuries allegedly related to petitioner's receipt of the influenza vaccine, which vaccine is contained in the Vaccine Injury Table (the "Table"), 42 C.F.R. § 100.3(a).
2. Petitioner received an influenza immunization on September 19, 2011.
3. The vaccine was administered within the United States.
4. Petitioner alleges that she suffered from brachial neuritis which was caused-in-fact by her influenza vaccination. Petitioner further alleges that she experienced residual effects of this injury for more than six months.
5. Petitioner represents that there has been no prior award or settlement of a civil action for damages as a result of her alleged brachial neuritis.

6. Respondent denies that petitioner's alleged brachial neuritis was caused-in-fact by her influenza vaccination, and denies that the vaccine caused any other injury or her current condition.

7. Maintaining their above-stated positions, the parties nevertheless now agree that the issues between them shall be settled and that a decision should be entered awarding the compensation described in paragraph 8 of this Stipulation.

8. As soon as practicable after an entry of judgment reflecting a decision consistent with the terms of this Stipulation, and after petitioner has filed an election to receive compensation pursuant to 42 U.S.C. § 300aa-21(a)(1), the Secretary of Health and Human Services will issue the following vaccine compensation payments:

- a. A lump sum of \$100,000.00 in the form of a check payable to petitioner. This amount represents compensation for all damages that would be available under 42 U.S.C. § 300aa-15(a); and
- b. A lump sum of \$16,761.49 in the form of a check payable jointly to petitioner and petitioner's attorney, for attorney's fees and costs available under 42 U.S.C. § 300aa-15(e), and in compliance with General Order #9, no out-of-pocket expenses were incurred by petitioner in proceeding on the petition.

9. Petitioner and her attorney represent that they have identified to respondent all known sources of payment for items or services for which the Program is not primarily liable under 42 U.S.C. § 300aa-15(g), including State compensation programs, insurance policies, Federal or State health benefits programs (other than Title XIX of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. § 1396 et seq.)), or entities that provide health services on a pre-paid basis.

10. Payments made pursuant to paragraph 8 will be made in accordance with 42 U.S.C. § 300aa-15(i), subject to the availability of sufficient statutory funds.

11. The parties and their attorneys further agree and stipulate that, except for any award

for attorney's fees and litigation costs and past unreimbursable expenses, the money provided pursuant to this Stipulation will be used solely for the benefit of petitioner as contemplated by a strict construction of 42 U.S.C. § 300aa-15(a) and (d), and subject to the conditions of 42 U.S.C. § 300aa-15(g) and (h).

12. In return for the payments described in paragraph 8, petitioner, in her individual capacity, and on behalf of her heirs, executors, administrators, successors or assigns, does forever irrevocably and unconditionally release, acquit and discharge the United States and the Secretary of Health and Human Services from any and all actions or causes of action (including agreements, judgments, claims, damages, loss of services, expenses and all demands of whatever kind or nature) that have been brought, could have been brought, or could be timely brought in the Court of Federal Claims, under the National Vaccine Injury Compensation Program, 42 U.S.C. § 300aa-10 et seq., on account of, or in any way growing out of, any and all known or unknown, suspected or unsuspected personal injuries to or death of petitioner resulting from, or alleged to have resulted from, the influenza vaccination administered on September 19, 2011 as alleged in a petition for vaccine compensation filed on or about April 24, 2013, in the United States Court of Federal Claims as petition No. 13-287V.

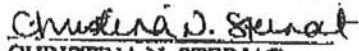
13. If petitioner should die prior to entry of judgment, this agreement shall be voidable upon proper notice to the Court on behalf of either or both of the parties.

14. If the special master fails to issue a decision in complete conformity with the terms of this Stipulation or if the Court of Federal Claims fails to enter judgment in conformity with a decision that is in complete conformity with the terms of this Stipulation, then the parties' settlement and this Stipulation shall be voidable at the sole discretion of either party.

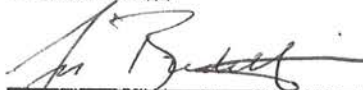
15. This Stipulation expresses a full and complete negotiated settlement of liability and

Respectfully submitted,


PETITIONER:


CHRISTINA N. STEINAT

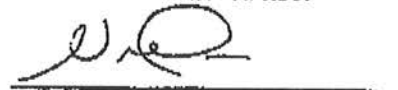
ATTORNEY OF RECORD FOR
PETITIONER:


LEE BURDETTE
Attorney for Petitioner
Burkett & Burdette
1809 7th Avenue
Suite 1400
Seattle, WA 98101
(206) 441-5597


AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVE
OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL:


VINCENT J. MATANOSKI
Deputy Director
Torts Branch
Civil Division
U.S. Department of Justice
P.O. Box 146
Benjamin Franklin Station
Washington, DC 20044-0146

AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVE
OF THE SECRETARY OF HEALTH
AND HUMAN SERVICES:


VITO CASERTA, M.D., M.P.H.
Acting Director, Division of
Vaccine Injury Compensation (DVIC)
Director, Countermeasures Injury
Compensation Program (CICP)
Healthcare Systems Bureau
U.S. Department of Health
and Human Services
5600 Fishers Lane
Parklawn Building, Mail Stop 11C-26
Rockville, MD 20857

ATTORNEY OF RECORD FOR
RESPONDENT:


ALEXIS B. BABCOCK
Trial Attorney
Torts Branch
Civil Division
U.S. Department of Justice
P.O. Box 146
Benjamin Franklin Station
Washington, DC 20044-0146
(202) 616-7678

Dated:

1/15/14